

geon and Lecturer on Anatomy at St. Thomas's Hospital.—*The Student's Guide to the Diseases of the Eye*, with engravings, by Henry Power, M.B., F.R.C.S., Senior Ophthalmic Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.—*Report on the Issue of a Spirit Ration during the March to Coomassie*, by E. A. Parkes, M.D., F.R.S., Member of the General Medical Council.—*The Student's Guide to the Practice of Midwifery*, with engravings, by D. Lloyd Roberts, M.D., Vice-President of the Obstetrical Society of London, Physician to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.—*Clinical Studies of Disease in Children*, by Eustace Smith, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician to the King of the Belgians, Physician to the East London Hospital for Children.

Messrs. Charles Griffin have nearly ready *A Dictionary of Hygiene and Public Health* (with illustrations), comprising Sanitary Chemistry, Engineering, and Legislation, the Dietetic Value of Foods, and the Detection of Adulterations, based on the "Dictionnaire d'Hygiène Publique" of Prof. Ambroise Tardieu, by Alexander Wynter Blyth, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., A.R.C., Medical Officer of Health, and Analyst to the County of Devon.

Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. also promise us a work *On the Curative Effects of Baths and Waters*, being a Handbook to the Spas of Europe, by Dr. J. Braun, with a Sketch on the Balneotherapeutic and Climatic Treatment of Pulmonary Consumption, by Dr. L. Rohden, an abridged translation from the third German edition, with Notes, by Hermann Weber, M.D., F.R.C.P., London Physician to the German Hospital.

The following BOTANICAL BOOKS are advertised as coming out this season:—*Medicinal Plants*, by Robert Bentley, F.L.S., Professor of Botany in King's College, London, and Henry Trimen, M.B., F.L.S., of the British Museum, and Lecturer on Botany at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School. This work will include full botanical descriptions and an account of the properties and uses of the principal plants employed in medicine, especial attention being paid to those which are official in the British and United States Pharmacopœias. The plants which supply food and substances required by the sick and convalescent will be also included. Each species will be illustrated by a coloured plate drawn from nature. This will be published in monthly parts, and Part I. will be ready very soon (Churchill).—*Pharmacographia*, a History of the Principal Drugs of Vegetable Origin found in Commerce in Great Britain and British India, by F. A. Flückiger and D. Hanbury, F.R.S. (Macmillan).—*The Primæval World of Switzerland*, by Prof. Oswald Heer, of the University of Zurich, translated by W. S. Dallas, F.L.S., and edited by James Heywood, M.A., F.R.S., with numerous illustrations. (Longmans.)

In the Sciences of GEOLOGY and MINERALOGY, &c., we are promised *Geology, for Students and General Readers*, embodying the most Recent Theories and Discoveries, by A. H. Green, M.A., Professor of Geology and Mining in the Yorkshire College of Science. Part I. The Elements of Physical Geology, with upwards of 100 illustrations by the author. Part II. The Elements of Stratigraphical Geology, with upwards of 100 illustrations by the author. (Daldy, Isbister, & Co.) The same publishers also have *Geological Climate and Time*, a Theory of Secular Changes of the Earth's Climate, by James Croll, of H.M. Geological Survey; *A Treatise on Mining*, by Lottner and Serlo, of the Berlin Academy of Mining, translated from the German by Prof. Le Neve Foster and Mr. Galloway, with 268 illustrations and diagrams; and *The Creation, or Dynamical System of the Earth's Formation*, in accordance with the Mosaic Record and the latest Discoveries of Science, by Archibald T. Ritchie.—*The Origin of Creation*, or the Science of Matter and Force, a New System of Natural Philosophy, by Thomas Roderick Fraser, M.D., and Andrew Dewar. (Longmans.)—*The*

Dawn of Life upon the Earth, by J. W. Dawson, LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University, Montreal, with illustrations. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

Finally, among MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS the following will probably interest the majority of our readers:—A new edition is nearly ready of *The Origin of Civilisation and the Primitive Condition of Man*, Mental and Social Condition of Savages, by Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., F.R.S. (Longmans).—*Outlines of Cosmic Philosophy, based on the Doctrine of Evolution, with Criticisms on the Positive Philosophy*, by John Fiske, M.A., LL.B., formerly Lecturer on Philosophy at Harvard University. (Macmillan).—*On the Sensations of Tone*, as a Physiological Basis for the Theory of Music, by Prof. H. Helmholtz, translated (with the author's sanction) from the third German edition by Alexander J. Ellis, F.R.S., F.S.A. (Longmans).—*Out of Doors*, a selection of original articles on Practical Natural History, by the Rev. J. G. Wood, M.A., F.L.S., author of "Homes without Hands," &c., with six illustrations, from original designs engraved on wood by G. Pearson. (Longmans).—*Insects Abroad*, being a popular account of foreign insects, their structure, habits, and transformations, by the Rev. J. G. Wood, M.A., F.L.S., illustrated with 600 figures by E. A. Smith and J. B. Zwecker. (Longmans).—*The Aerial World*, by Dr. George Hartwig. (Longmans).—*Memoir of Sir Roderick Murchison*, including extracts from his journals and letters, with notices of his scientific contemporaries, and a sketch of the rise and progress, for half a century, of Palæozoic Geology in Britain, by Archibald Geikie, LL.D., F.R.S., Murchison Professor of Geology and Mineralogy in the University of Edinburgh, and Director of the Geological Survey of Scotland. (Murray).—*The Physics and Philosophy of the Senses*, or the Mental and the Physical in their Mutual Relations, by R. S. Wyld, F.R.S.E., illustrated. (King and Co.).—*The Elements of the Psychology of Cognition*, by Robert Jardine, B.D., D.Sc., Principal of the General Assembly College, Calcutta. (Macmillan).—*On Parasites in the Animal Kingdom*, by M. Van Beneden. (King and Co.).—*The Doctrine of Descent and Darwinism*, by Prof. Oscar Schmidt. (King and Co.).—*Optics*, by Prof. Lommel, profusely illustrated. (King and Co.).—*Fungi*, their Nature, Influences, and Uses, by the Rev. M. J. Berkeley and Dr. M. Cooke, profusely illustrated. (King and Co.).—*Scientific London*, an account of the History and present scope of the principal Scientific Societies and Institutions of London, by Bernard H. Becker. (King and Co.)

THE NEW REPTILE-HOUSE IN THE JARDIN DES PLANTES

THE new house for Reptiles and Batrachians in the Jardin des Plantes at Paris was opened to the public last week. It contains four divisions: two larger central, and two smaller end compartments, all connected by folding doors. The front larger compartment is fitted up in the middle with large shallow tanks for the *Crocodylia*, of which there are five examples of *Crocodylus vulgaris*, *C. frontatus*, *Alligator mississippiensis*, and two species of *Jacare*. In front is a row of glass cages for Snakes—Boas, Pythons, and various Colubridæ. The second larger compartment is devoted chiefly to Batrachians, and contains various Salamanders (*Triton*, &c.), and a large number of Axolotls (*Siredon*). In one tank are the two celebrated specimens of this most abnormal of creatures which have got rid of their external gills and converted themselves into the Salamandroid form, *Amblystoma*. In one of the end compartments are the venomous snakes; in the other, Lacertilia of various kinds.

The cages for the Snakes are fitted up with moss, earth,

and stones, which are certainly prettier and more natural than the gravel and blankets used for the same purpose in our Zoological Gardens. But the difficulty seems to be that the animals conceal themselves and are not easily extracted from their hiding-places, whereas a blanket is readily unfolded when the occasion requires, and is more easily kept clean and tidy.

There can be no question of the great improvement of this house as compared with its predecessor, nor of its superiority to the Reptile-house in our Zoological Society's Gardens, so far as concerns space and arrangement. But as regards the extent of the collection, we believe the London Society still holds its own.

NOTES

SEVENTY-FIVE cases of specimens taken by the *Challenger* expedition have been received at the Admiralty from Prof. Wyville Thomson.

THE vessel bearing the French Transit Expedition, under charge of M. Janssen, was caught in the typhoon which swept over Hong Kong on Sept. 23; although the ship appears to have suffered, the *personnel* and apparatus are happily safe. We may state that M. Janssen's wife accompanies him.

FROM the list of the lectures to be delivered during the present term at Oxford, on subjects connected with Natural Science, the want of organisation among the teachers of its different branches is but too apparent. The four biological courses—by Prof. Rolleston (1), Mr. Lankester at Exeter College (2), Mr. Barclay Thompson at Christ Church (3), and Mr. Chapman at Magdalen (4)—are to be on (1) The Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrata, (2) The Structure and Genealogy of Vertebrata, (3) Ichthyic Anatomy, (4) The Anatomy of Vertebrata; so that no provision is made for those who are studying Human Anatomy, nor the Invertebrata. Histology fares hardly any better, for its rapid progress during the last few years has quite overthrown the practical microscopy of ten years ago. The Professor of Experimental Philosophy and Dr. Lee's Reader in Physics are also both to lecture on Electricity.

SIGNOR L. M. D'ALBERTIS, the Italian naturalist, who recently ascended the Arfak Mountains in New Guinea and made so many important discoveries, is now at Genoa preparing for a fresh expedition into the same country, and will leave Europe in about a month's time. On this occasion the traveller will endeavour to penetrate into the southern part of that *terra incognita*, that is into the district adjacent to Torres Straits, where mountain-ranges of considerable altitude are known to exist. Should he succeed in his arduous enterprise, there can be no doubt that he will reap an abundant harvest, as the zoology of this part of New Guinea is absolutely unexplored.

SIGNOR D'ALBERTIS' former companion, the distinguished botanist, Dr. Beccari, is still in the East. His last letters, dated at Macassar in August last, announce his recent return there from an excursion into the south-eastern districts of Celebes. We believe that Dr. Beccari also is preparing for a fresh expedition to New Guinea.

UNDER the sanction of the trustees of the British Museum, the course of twelve lectures on Geology, which the liberal endowment of Dr. Swiney makes free to the public, will this year be delivered by Dr. Carpenter, at the Birkbeck Literary and Scientific Institution, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, on Saturday evenings, at half-past seven o'clock, commencing Saturday next. We understand that the main purpose of the course will be to elucidate the past history of the earth by the study of the changes at present in progress; and that the course

will include an account of the lecturer's own researches in the deep sea. It will be illustrated by an extensive series of photographs and paintings, exhibited by the oxy-hydrogen lantern.

THE South African correspondent who sent us the *Natural History Notes* which appeared in *NATURE*, vol. x. p. 486, is Mr. J. P. Mansell Weale.

It has been decided to publish, as a yearly volume, a *Record of Works on Geology, Mineralogy, and Palæontology, British and Foreign*. The first volume will be printed by the middle of 1875, and will contain short abstracts or notices of papers, books, maps, &c.; published during the year 1874. It is estimated that this volume will contain from 200 to 300 pages, and that its price will be 10s. 6d. The gentlemen named below have volunteered to assist in the work, which has already been begun. Those marked * have taken charge of various sections (as sub-editors), and the last has undertaken the post of general editor:—
* W. Carruthers, F.R.S. (British Museum); C. E. De Rance, F.G.S. (Geological Survey); R. Etheridge, jun., F.G.S. (Geological Survey of Scotland); D. Forbes, F.R.S.; Prof. Geikie, F.R.S. (director of the Geological Survey of Scotland); * Prof. A. H. Green, F.G.S.; Prof. T. R. Jones, F.R.S.; A. J. Jukes-Browne, F.G.S. (Geological Survey); * G. A. Lebour, F.G.S.; * L. C. Miall (Leeds Museum); E. T. Newton, F.G.S. (Jermyn Street Museum); Dr. H. A. Nicholson, F.G.S.; * F. W. Rudler, F.G.S. (Jermyn Street Museum); E. B. Tawney, F.G.S. (Bristol Museum); * W. Topley, F.G.S. (Geological Survey); Henry Woodward, F.R.S. (British Museum); H. B. Woodward, F.G.S. (Geological Survey); W. Whitaker, F.G.S. (Geological Survey). The work will be greatly helped if Provincial Societies and Field Clubs will forward copies of their publications to the editor. It is hoped, from the low price, that the number of subscribers will be enough to cover the expenses of printing; but should this not be the case, a number of eminent scientific gentlemen have kindly consented to act as guarantors. Names of intending subscribers, and of societies and institutions that will purchase the *Record* for 1874, will be gladly received by the editor.

MR. WILLIAM DITTMAR, F.R.S.E., Lecturer on Chemistry at Owens College, Manchester, has been appointed Professor of Chemistry at Anderson's University, Glasgow, in the place of Dr. Thorpe, who has been elected Professor of Chemistry at the Yorkshire College of Science.

DR. WILLIAM STIRLING has been appointed assistant to Dr. Rutherford, the newly elected Professor of Physiology in the University of Edinburgh.

DR. JAMES APJOHN has resigned his appointment of Professor of Chemistry in the Medical School of Trinity College, Dublin.

MR. BRYCE M. WRIGHT, the well-known collector of fossils, who for some time past had been far from well, died last week.

A NEW wing has been quite recently added to King's College, London, by means of which considerable improvements have been made in the Physiological Laboratory and the Dissecting Room.

Two scholarships in Science, of the value of 100*l.* each, have this year been awarded at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; one to Mr. Coates, of Balliol College, Oxford, the other to Mr. Saunders, of Downing College, Cambridge, these gentlemen having been coupled as of equal merit for the first place in the competition.

THE following gentlemen have been elected to the vacant Natural Science Postmasterships in Merton College:—Mr. J. Larden, of Rugby School, and Mr. A. Macdonell, of Aberdeen University. The Delegates of Unattached Students of Oxford University give notice that the Master and Court